

Story 2050 (Transcribed by
Ahmet Ali Arslan from his
tape and later used in his
unpublished dissertation.)

Narrator: Sabri Bozan, 65

Location: Zihni village, kaza
of Sarıkamış,
Province of Kars

Date: September 21, 1977

The Advice of a Mother Crow

There was once a crow who built a nest for herself. She laid eggs in that nest, and after a short while she had several baby crows. When she had raised these little crows to the age at which they could begin to fly, the mother crow gave them a piece of advice. She said, "Listen to me! I want to tell you something before you leave this nest. If you see a human being, look at his hands. If he has a stick in either hand, fly away quickly. If you see one reach down for a stone, again you should fly away quickly."

One of the baby crows turned to her and asked, "Mother, what if he already has a stone in his pocket?"

The mother crow answered, "My baby, go ahead and fly away. You already have all the advice you need. Go ahead and leave. You can go wherever you wish. You know everything better than I do."

(People around here use this story when they are dealing with someone who seems to know everything. When a father wishes to give a son some advice, he approaches the matter indirectly by telling this story. If the son is clever, he

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will learn a lesson from it and listen to his father's advice. If he is not clever, he will do whatever he wishes to do even if he has been given fifty pieces of advice.)